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ABSTRACT

Applying the conditions of natural learning to create caring kindergarten classroom environments may support students as lifelong learners. This book presents a natural learning classroom model for implementing a whole-language approach in kindergarten. The chapters are as follows: (1) "My Beliefs about How Children Learn"; (2) "Applying Whole Language Theories," describing Cambourne's (1988) learning conditions and Holdaway's (1986) natural learning classroom model; (3) "The Room," focusing on permanent and temporary learning centers; (4) "The Start of the Day"; (5) "Shared Reading: Theory," describing shared reading sessions, literacy sets, schema development, and use of familiar texts; (6) "Shared Reading: Practice"; (7) "Organizing Choice Time," focusing on the I CARE System; (8) "Reading during Choice Time"; (9) "Writing during Choice Time,"; (10) "Math and Physical Science during Choice Time"; (11) "Art during Choice Time"; (12) "Dramatic Play Environments"; (13) "The End of the Day," (14) "Assessment," including recording forms and assessment procedures; (15) "Communicating with Parents"; (16) "Questions Teachers Ask," about issues such as full-day programs, specialist teachers, objectionable toys, and child engagement; (17) "Classroom Management and Organization," detailing the I CARES procedure; (18) "Language Arts," elaborating on the theory and practice of reading and writing; and (19) "Generative Curriculum," examining dramatic play environments and ways to meld teachers' and children's interests and the prescribed curriculum. Four appendices include reproducible forms and classroom ideas. Contains lists of 192 children's books, 26 professional resources, 19 books for parents, and 153 professional references. (Author/KB)

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